



Town of Arlington Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws,
Chapter 39, Section 23B, notice is hereby given of a meeting of the:

Finance Committee

Monday, March 20, 2023

7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Robert P. O'Neill Community Room, 2nd Floor

Community Safety Building, 112 Mystic Street

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Introduction
2. Warrant Article No. 49: Community Preservation Fund
3. Warrant Article No. 56: Subsidized Compost Collection
4. Review Budgets
5. Other Business
6. Approve Minutes
7. Adjourn

Members of the public are asked to send written comments to tbradley@town.arlington.ma.us

Documents regarding agenda items will be made available via the Town's website.

Information regarding Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law:
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/order-suspending-certain-provision-of-open-meeting-law/download>

By Christine Deshler, Finance Committee Chair

Reference 1: CPA FY24 Funding Summary

Reference 2: Subsidized Compost Collection Presentation

FY24 Community Preservation Act Budget					
Project Title	Applicant(s)	Application	Budget	CPA Category	Purpose
Community Housing					
10 Sunnyside Ave	Housing Corporation of Arlington	\$ 500,000	\$ 23,809,157	Community Housing	Creation
Arlington Affordable Housing Trust Fund	Department of Planning and Community Development	\$ 370,000	\$ 3,660,090	Community Housing	Support
Leasing Differential	Somerville Homeless Coalition	\$ 30,634	\$ 659,420	Community Housing	Support
Hauser Building Roof Replacement	Arlington Housing Authority	\$ 120,000	\$ 745,876	Community Housing	Preservation
Menotomy Manor Window Replacement Project, Ph.2	Arlington Housing Authority	\$ 400,000	\$ 5,100,000	Community Housing	Preservation
	Community Housing Subtotal	\$ 1,420,634	\$ 33,974,543		
Open Space/Recreation					
Hills Hill Mountain Biking Trails	Arlington Rec Dept.	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	Open Space/Recreation	Rehabilitation and Restoration
Menotomy Rocks Park Picnic and Playground	Arlington Rec Dept.	\$ -	\$ 315,000	Open Space/Recreation	Rehabilitation and Restoration
Invasive Vegetation Removal	Arlington Conservation Commission	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	Open Space/Recreation	Preservation
Mill Brook Preservation (Buffer and Beautify)	Arlington Conservation Commission	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	Open Space/Recreation	Rehabilitation and Restoration
21 Pond Lane Feasibility Study	Dept of Planning and Community Development	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	Open Space/Recreation	Creation
No Name Brook Preservation	Open Space Committee	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	Open Space/Recreation	Preservation
Orchard Signage (Find Your Way to the Orchard!)	Open Space Committee	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	Open Space/Recreation	Rehabilitation and Restoration
	Open Space/Recreation Subtotal	\$ 569,500	\$ 884,500		
Historic Preservation					
AFOD Building and Energy Upgrades and Repairs	Arlington Friends of the Drama	\$ 187,750	\$ 187,750	Historic Preservation	Rehabilitation and Restoration
Document Digitization	Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum, Inc.	\$ 71,880	\$ 71,880	Historic Preservation	Preservation
Foot of the Rocks Battlefield Memorial	Working Group Foot of the Rocks Project	\$ 112,000	\$ 1,000,000	Historic Preservation	Rehabilitation and Restoration
Jason Russell House, Preservation Continued	Arlington Historical Society	\$ 73,573	\$ 73,573	Historic Preservation	Preservation
Town Hall Envelope Preservation, Phase 1 (Town Hall Clock Tower)	Town of Arlington	\$ 385,000	\$ 10,000,000	Historic Preservation	Preservation
Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden	Friends of the Robbins Town Gardens, Arlington Historical Commission	\$ -	\$ 89,996	Historic Preservation	Rehabilitation and Restoration
	Historic Preservation Subtotal	\$ 830,203	\$ 11,423,199		
	Subtotal, FY24 CPA Applications	\$ 2,820,337	\$ 46,282,242		
	CPAC Administrative Expenses Account	\$ 62,740	\$ 62,740		
	Grand Total	\$ 2,883,077	\$ 46,344,982		

FY2024 Estimated Available Funds for Appropriation			
Total Town CPA tax revenue estimate for FY24	\$ 1,901,200		
FY24 Estimated State Match	\$ 380,240	State Match, 20% of anticipated 2023 CPA Collections	
Anticipated End of FY23 CPA Fund Balance, including turnbacks, state match above estimate, CPA commitment not yet collected	\$ 607,750		
Total CPA Estimate Available for Distribution	\$ 2,889,190		

Funding Category	FY24 10% by Category	FY24 Funding by Category
Open Space + Recreation	\$ 228,144	\$ 569,500
Historic Preservation	\$ 228,144	\$ 830,203
Community Housing	\$ 228,144	\$ 1,420,634
	\$ 684,432	\$ 2,820,337

Restaurant Composting Pilot Program

Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA

1. Proposal

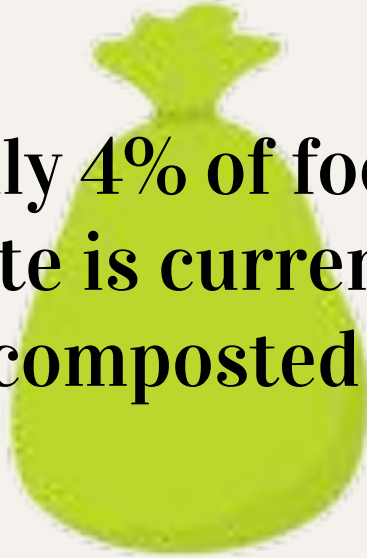
Proposal:

Pilot a program, available to Arlington restaurants situated along Massachusetts Avenue, that incentivizes food scrap diversion by subsidizing 10% of the monthly cost of curbside composting when serviced through select composting companies.

2a. Environmental Benefits



**63 million tons of
food waste annually
in the US**



**Only 4% of food
waste is currently
composted**

Waste Incineration

- Arlington's solid waste is managed through waste incineration
 - Incineration produces nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas (GHG)
- Food waste is composed of 70% water, reducing incineration efficiency
 - Increases operation costs, energy, and fuel
 - Increases GHG emissions

Composting:

- Breaks down into non-toxic components
 - Water, carbon dioxide, biomass
- Compost is distributed for use in farms and gardens

Global Warming Potential (GWP)		GWP for 20-yr	GWP for 100-yr	GWP for 500-yr
Carbon Dioxide	CO ₂	1	1	1
Methane	CH ₄	72	25	7.6
Nitrous Oxide	N ₂ O	289	298	153

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and RRS



**Restaurants can
produce over 600lb.
of waste per week**




**90% of restaurant
waste is
compostable**

Efficiency of Restaurant Composting

- Large environmental impact due to high volume of food waste
- Decreases cost of composting
 - Compost stops are concentrated along one main road with a high volume of compost per stop
 - Lowers fuel costs, lowering price per stop
- Effectively spreads awareness to restaurant employees and customers

2b. Restaurant Benefit

Legislation:



Massachusetts businesses that produce ½ ton or more of organic waste per week are required by law to compost

- Restaurants stay on top of state-wide composting mandates
- Massachusetts has progressively mandated more restaurants compost

Increased Business



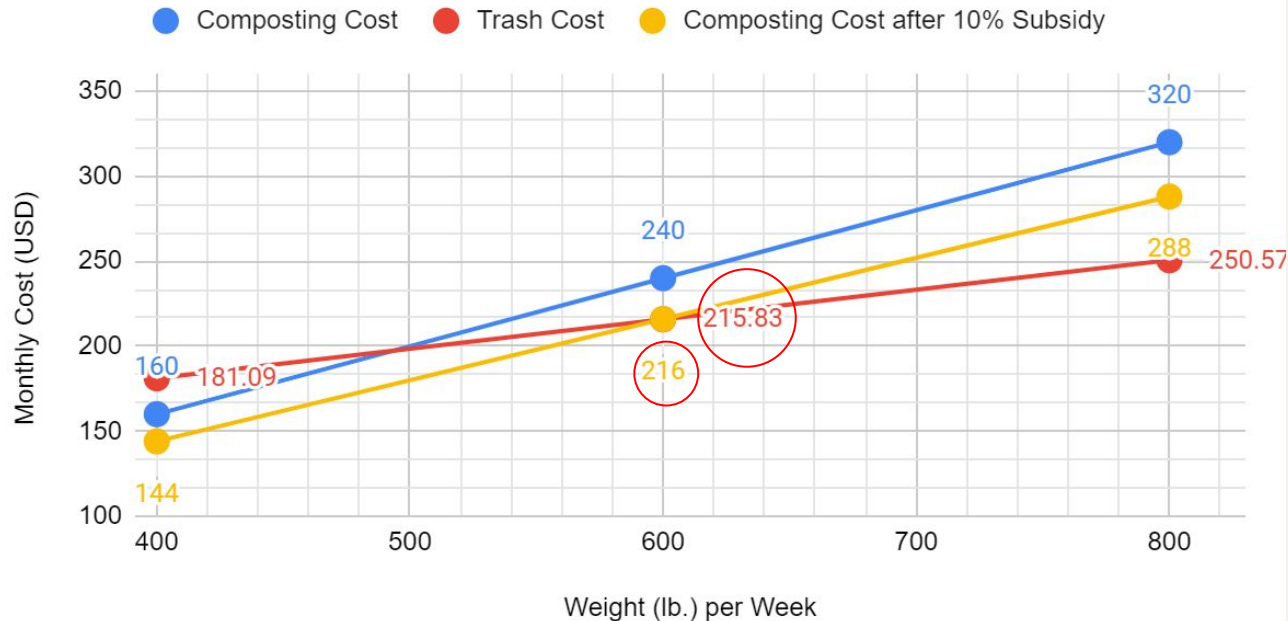
**60% of households
prefer dining at
zero-waste restaurants**

- Increases the number of Arlington residents at local restaurants
- Attracts business from neighboring towns

Financial Incentive

Monthly Composting vs. Trash Cost

Quotes courtesy of Black Earth Composting and Waste Management



- After a 10% town subsidy, composting costs match trash pick-up costs

- This financial argument encourages more restaurants to compost

3. Cost

Cost:

- 200 lb. tote = 48-64 gallon bin = \$20 per pickup
 - Price includes: bin, compost liner(s), fuel, tipping fee (processing cost)
- Restaurants produce on average 3 bins of food waste per week



Quote courtesy of Black Earth Compost

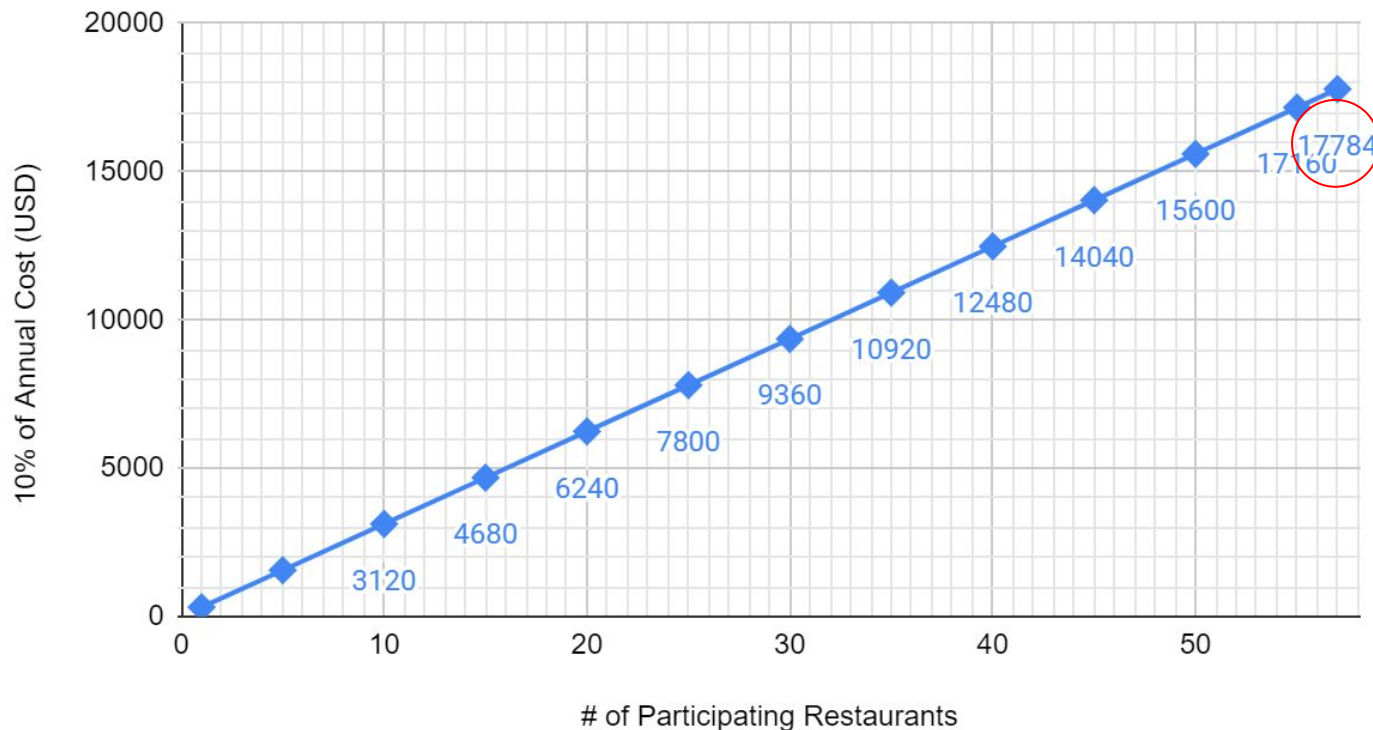
Cost: *per restaurant*

	Diverted food scraps:	Total Cost: 3 <i>totes</i> collected once a week	Town subsidy: 10% of total cost	Restaurant cost: Total cost minus town subsidy
Week	≈ 600 lb.	\$60	\$6	\$54
Month	≈ 2,400 lb.	≈ \$240	\$24	\$216
Year	≈ 31,200 lb.	\$3,120	\$312	\$2808

Cost per Participating Restaurant

Reference 2

Town Financial Responsibility



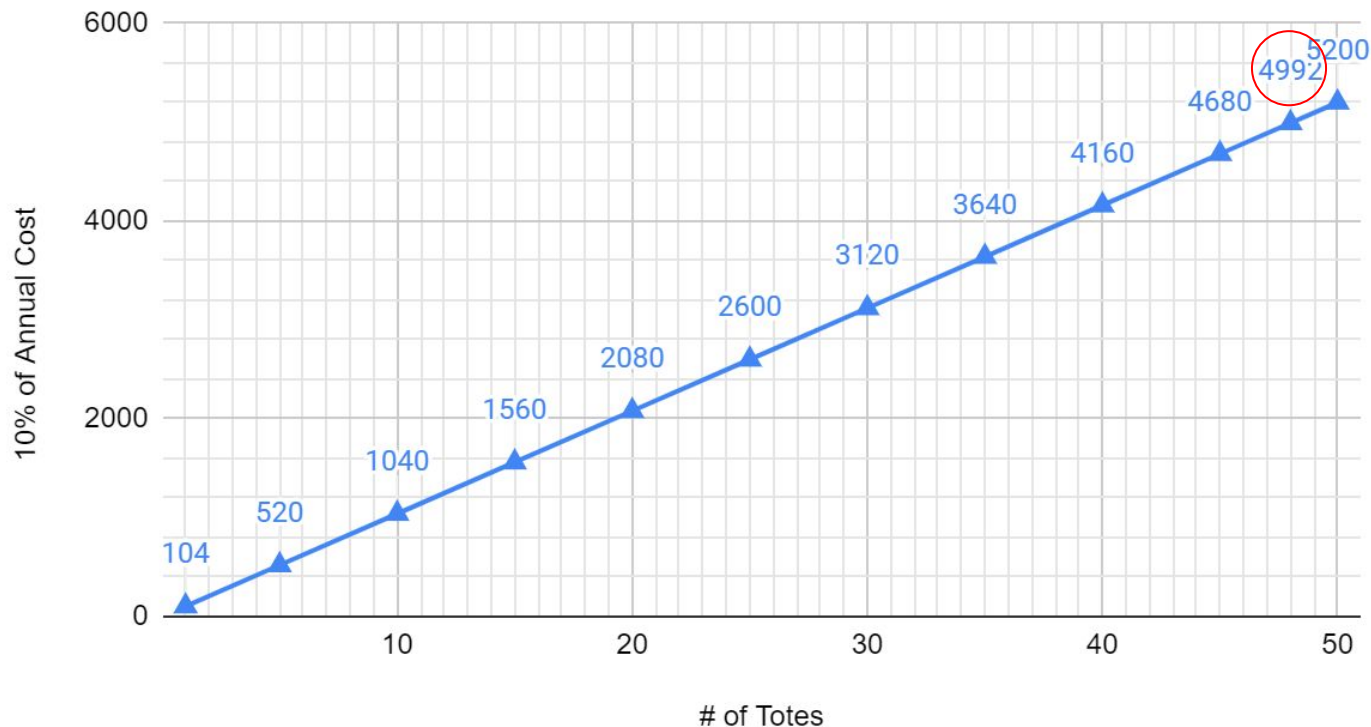
- 57 eligible restaurants
- Maximum potential cost to town: \$17,784

- **1,778,400 lb.** of food scraps diverted over a 1-year period with 100% restaurant participation

1-year pilot: 16 participating restaurants

Reference 2

Town Financial Responsibility



- \$4,992 = 48 totes
- Subsidizing approx. 16 restaurants

- **499,200 lb.** of food scraps diverted over a 1-year period!

Pilot program cost over a 1-year
period: *composting component*

\$4,992

4. Concerns

Rodents

- Compost bins do not attract rodents at a higher rate than dumpsters or trash bins
- Bins designed with rodent prevention in mind
 - Durable plastic, heavy duty latch
 - Trap odor
 - Washable/easy to clean

Black Earth Compost



Thank you!